



# Long Island Botanical Society

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Spring 2013

## The Great Chainsaw Massacre of Nassau County

Lois Lindberg, Long Island Botanical Society

The questions started at the end of November with a phone call from a concerned LIBS member. Then came an email from a friend—did I know anything about huge numbers of trees being cut down in Welwyn Preserve? “Superstorm Sandy” tore through the region on October 29, 2012, leaving behind flooded coastlines and acres of mature trees torn down. Rumors circulated about Nassau County logging the preserves, selling timber, and other claims. After an initial thought that Welwyn’s neighbors in Glen Cove might be dismayed by post-storm trail cleanup, Al (Lindberg) and I went to inspect the situation firsthand.

We saw that the preserve suffered a lot of damage from this and previous storms, and a good deal of the cutting seemed to be legitimate trail clearing. Numerous stately tuliptrees (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) lay broken or uprooted throughout the forest. But from a naturalist’s perspective, it was entirely unnecessary to cut down and section many of the trees (Figure 1). True, some showed signs of disease or decay, but healthy specimens of American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), sweet birch (*Betula lenta*), red oak (*Quercus rubra*), and ironwood (*Carpinus caroliniana*) had been cut for no apparent reason. And even the trees showing evidence of decay could have been dropped away from any trails and left for wildlife habitat, not cut into neat segments.

Over the next few days, a broader picture emerged. The destruction from Hurricane Sandy in Nassau County’s preserves couldn’t compare to the damage being done in the name of public safety. Crews were brought in from out-of-state to cut, section up, and possibly remove all “dangerous” trees—those with hollowed trunks, broken branches, or leaning at angles greater than 15-30 degrees. At Muttontown Preserve, over protests of the part-time staff, crews came in with ATVs, Bobcats, and other heavy equipment. Stillwell Woods Preserve in Syosset



Figure 1. Healthy, mature trees were cut down in Welwyn Preserve. [L.Lindberg]

and Massapequa Preserve suffered similar fates. At Stillwell Woods, Al introduced himself to the supervisor of the crew as a retired wildlife biologist/preserve manager for Nassau County Parks & Rec, and discussed the work being done. The crew chief agreed that he saw no need to cut and section as much as they were ordered to do, and told Al that, in his opinion, the County people supervising the project basically didn’t know what they were doing. North Shore Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy, and other groups were alerted. Bruce Piel of the Park

Advocacy & Recreation Council of Nassau (PARCnassau) sent out a scathing notice entitled “Chainsaw Massacre in Nassau’s Suburban Forests” condemning the desecration of the County’s natural heritage, and alleging that the primary motivation was to collect FEMA funds. And at Garvies Point Preserve in Glen Cove, as news stories began to appear in the media, administrators from Nassau County Dep’t. of Parks, Recreation & Museums closed the gates, locking out the Museum staff for a day and a half so that the work could continue unimpeded.

Because portions of the preserves fall under the NYS Freshwater Wetlands Act, Al Lindberg filed a formal request with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to investigate. A DEC conservation officer and a biologist dedicated 2 ½ days to check the preserves for violations. But their jurisdiction extends only to mapped regulated wetlands, and unfortunately much of the post-storm damage fell outside of those limits. The biologist prepared a thorough report, and although he found significant amounts of damage done for no obvious reason, little of it directly impacted the wetland areas. Ironically, the one location that could have been hit with major violations is a non-regulated wetland. The Chelsea section of Muttontown Preserve showed significant inexplicable damage from heavy equipment. Along the driveway to Northern Blvd. where

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## Long Island Botanical Society

Founded: 1986 • Incorporated: 1989

The Long Island Botanical Society is dedicated to the promotion of field botany and a greater understanding of the plants that grow wild on Long Island, New York.

Visit the Society's Web site  
[www.libotanical.org](http://www.libotanical.org)

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## Society News

**LIBS gratefully acknowledges donors.** The society would not exist without the support of its members, and LIBS takes this opportunity to express sincere appreciation to the following members who recently gave very generous, year-end donations: Andrew Sabin Family Foundation, Vicki Bustamante, Barbara Conolly, Louise Harrison, David Heerwagen, Tony Lauro, Mary Maran, Bob McGrath, Zu Proly, Lenore Swenson, P. Tanner, and Dot & Bill Titus.

**John Turner returns to co-chair LIBS Conservation Committee.** LIBS and John have been working together for many years on various environmental conservation projects. John's official return to the committee coincides with LIBS involvement in the Freeman Avenue site and North Fork Preserve. Welcome back, John.

**Andrew M. Grelle Award recipients.** The Torrey Botanical Society recently announced the 2013 winners of this graduate student research award for conservation of local flora and ecosystems. Two students each received the \$1000 award this year: Angelica Patterson from Columbia University for "Temperature tolerance of the physiological processes controlling carbon gain in northeastern forests" and Sarah Whorley from Fordham University for "Algal biodiversity and function used to assess stream restoration in Delaware County, New York."

**LIBS initiates effort to protect critical habitat.** LIBS members John Turner, Steve Young, and Eric Lamont have initiated contact with property owners and local government officials in an effort to protect habitat at the Freeman Avenue site in Islip that supports New York's largest remaining populations of flowering pixie-moss (*Pyxidianthera barbulata*) and yellow milkwort (*Polygala lutea*), along with northern blazing-star (*Liatris scariosa* var. *novae-angliae*) and other rare plants. We are hoping that a conservation easement can be procured.

**LIBS partners with The Nature Conservancy** to help protect the pale fringed orchid (*Platanthera pallida*) at Lazy Point in Napeague. In March 2013, Paul D'Andrea, Land Steward for The Nature Conservancy, met with Eric Lamont at the site and discussed management plans. The orchids at this site have been declining because of intense browsing by deer.

**LIBS partners with Greater New York Orchid Society** to help protect the population of green adder's-mouth orchid (*Malaxis unifolia*) growing along North Street in Brookhaven Township. LIBS and four other societies signed a letter written by David Taft that included a proposal to not mow a specific thirty yard stretch of roadside during the months of June, July, and August.

**LIBS & North Fork Preserve.** John Turner and Eric Lamont are working with Suffolk County officials and environmental groups to initiate the preparation of a vegetation map of the recently acquired 300+ acre preserve that contains a complex mosaic of freshwater wetlands and rare ecological communities that support a high diversity of native plants and animals.

**Update on LIBS Atlas of LI Plants.** Adam Negrin reported that during this spring 2013 semester he is taking an advanced computer course on ArcGIS, a necessary tool that will enable him to express the gigantic LIBS/BBG plant database as dot distribution maps.

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a shallow creek eventually feeds into Mill River, most understory vegetation was also removed when several large maple trees were cleaned up (Figure 2). A small bulldozer gouged tracks through the muddy soil uphill to the fence line, far removed from any area posing a risk to the public.

Nassau County's response was not unexpected. According to *Newsday* (Dec. 27, 2012) the County's spokesman Michael Martino called it "preposterous to think Nassau County would allow any trees to be removed for reasons other than protecting the public's safety." He said if trees "meet certain criteria, such as 50 percent damage, a split trunk or broken branches . . . it is in the interest of public safety to remove the tree." However, officials acknowledge that a crew paid by the tree was mistakenly sent into Welwyn Preserve . . . accounting for the initial burst of tree cutting. "No way would I condone taking down trees arbitrarily," said legislative Presiding Officer Norma Gonsalves (R-East Meadow). "I have done my research... Those that posed a risk to people who use the preserve had to be removed." The *Newsday* story continues: After Legis. Judy Jacobs (D-Woodbury) asked about Welwyn, the Commissioner of Public Works sent a log of the preserve work. It shows that 31 trees had been uprooted and were on the ground when crews arrived on Nov. 25...Crews took down another 111 trees, primarily because of damaged crowns or because the tree was leaning dangerously. "We're all sad to see so many trees lost in a storm, but I'm happy to see that the work . . . is backed up with fact," Jacobs said.



Figure 2. Underbrush was removed and a section of woods was clear-cut along the Chelsea driveway. [L.Lindberg]

"Research?" "Fact?"—Preserves that had gone begging for routine trail maintenance for years, suddenly received so much more attention than necessary in the name of public safety, including sections that were well away from hiking trails or visitor use. Cutbacks in personnel and essential equipment have left the County's preserve system depleted of any biologists, naturalists, or preserve managers. The current administration may have been unaware of regulations such as the NYS Freshwater Wetlands Act that protect some of the County's preserves, and no full-time Museum staff were on-site to direct the workers. The concerns of environmental groups were often met with jeers of "What do you know about this? Are you a trained arborist?" But recommendations to consult with natural science profes-



Figure 3. Portions of Muttontown Preserve were left with branches and rubble of downed pine trees. [L.Lindberg]

sionals went unanswered. Now these contract work crews have gone, leaving behind a mess of muddy trails, tall stumps, and piles of branches (Figure 3), without County resources to care for what remains. Sadly, the damage has been done, and it is now up to our "citizen science" advocates to continue monitoring any future detrimental policies.

Perhaps the greater concern, however, is for more far-reaching consequences. Many peoples' attitudes toward nature have been altered, creating a fear of tall mature trees. Whether in private yards or in adjoining woodlands, there is much more support for removing even healthy specimens, and replacing them with shorter (read "non-native") ornamental varieties. Nassau County has stated that they will seek to plant new trees in Spring. If this goes through with the cooperation of the County's Soil & Water Conservation District, one might hope that native species will be chosen. Even if nothing further is done in these preserves, one thing is certain—the character of our woodlands has changed. As we have seen so often, disturbances in natural habitats tend to fill in rapidly with alien, invasive species. It's been said that change is different, and it remains to be seen just how much those differences will affect the local forest ecosystem.



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**No new NYS Rare Plant List.** Steve Young announced that once again the state will not be updating the rare plant status lists in 2013 because of budget cuts. Steve noted: "When we are able to update rare plant information again, we will have over 50 updates to make in the lists for taxonomy, distribution, and ranks."

**Chuck Sheviak to retire in 2013.** Dr. Sheviak, curator of the New York State Museum Herbarium in Albany and an authority on the orchid genera *Spiranthes*, *Platanthera*, and *Cypripedium*, has been a close friend of LIBS for many years. His retirement will leave a huge void at the herbarium especially because the position of State Botanist has not been filled since the retirement of Dr. Richard Mitchell in 2002. LIBS wishes Chuck a long and healthy retirement.

## A Canadian Botanist Unleashed on Long Island

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For several years, I have been a reader of the superb *Long Island Botanical Society Newsletter*, fantasizing about when I might get the opportunity to botanize the area and become acquainted with the Island's floristic treasures. In July 2012, Maine's Josselyn Botanical Society, of which I have been a long-time member, held its annual summer meeting in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, only a few hours drive from the New London ferry terminal. Tantalized by the prospect of being so close, I contacted Eric and Mary Laura Lamont to see if they would be willing to spend a bit of time botanizing with me if I headed down their way, or perhaps give me some directions to some of Long Island's botanical hot spots. Being from New Brunswick, Canada, and having a keen interest in orchids and ferns, I was especially interested in seeing some of the orchid species that haven't yet been found in Canada (e.g., cranefly orchid, crested yellow orchid, pale fringed orchid), or have been extirpated from our country (yellow fringed orchid), and also Long Island's famous population of curly-grass fern, logo of the Long Island Botanical Society. Imagine my delight when Eric and Mary Laura invited me to stay with them for three days, and agreed to tour me about!



Figure 2. Redroot (*Lachnanthes caroliniana*), east of Sandy Pond.

ably conveying many passengers between the provinces of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island as the *MV Prince Nova*. New Yorkers were proving to be very friendly, and three great egrets, a species that rarely ventures northward to New Brunswick, comprised an avian welcoming committee at Orient.

I arrived at the Lamonts' home in Riverhead at around noon, and Eric already had a fast-paced botanical itinerary planned



Figure 1. Horned beakrush (*Rhynchospora inundata*) at Sandy Pond. [Ed. Note—Photographs by the author unless otherwise noted. Common and scientific names of species seen or sought are listed, beginning on page 21.]

Just after I boarded the ferry at New London on Friday 20 July, an outgoing crewman noted my car's New Brunswick license plate and informed me that the ferry I was taking to Long Island was a former Canadian. This ferry, the *Susan Anne*, had been purchased from Canada in 1998, after reli-

for me. Our first destination was the well-drained sandy soil in the vicinity of River Road, south of Long Island RR tracks and west of Edwards Ave., Riverhead Township. In open sand along the railway track, Eric showed me a number of species that were new to this northerner, including sickle-leaved golden-aster, hyssopleaf thoroughwort, ipecac spurge (a rarity for New York State), buttonweed, cutleaf evening primrose (very rare in New York; a southern species that seems to be spreading northward), cottonweed, purple sandgrass and seaside three-awn. It was great to get reacquainted with black oak, largebracted plantain and purple lovegrass, species that I had previously seen only in southern Ontario, and to see flaxleaf whitetop aster, jointweed and orangegrass, uncommon to rare sand-loving species that I am very familiar with in the Canadian Maritime provinces. A quick roadside stop added sweet goldenrod and shrubby lespezea, also

both new to me, sassafras (known from Canada only in southern Ontario), and a species of frostweed that we did not stop long enough to identify.

As clouds darkened in the overcast sky, we briefly explored the abandoned cranberry bogs south of Swan Pond, where a roadside wetland sported four species that were new for me—bunch broomsedge, Walter's sedge, bugleweed and catbrier—along with robust specimens of yellow screwstem (found in my home province in only one location), greenbrier (limited in Canada to Nova Scotia and Ontario) and inkberry (occurring in Canada only in Nova Scotia).

Along a trail on the opposite side of the road, Eric pointed out three more new species for me—cross-leaf milkwort, foxtail clubmoss and staggerbush—and we found a brown-capped *Amanita*, and some fine examples of blooms of plants that are much more familiar to me—grass-pink, dodder (species undetermined), roundleaf sundew, spatulateleaf sundew and a showy stand of steeplebush.

Apart from orchids and ferns, one of my most passionate botanical interests is the flora of the Atlantic coastal plain, a botanical element that is very well developed in Nova Scotia, but relatively impoverished in New Brunswick. I hadn't told Eric about my love for emergent aquatics, so I was elated when I learned that our next stop would be Sandy Pond, located within the Calverton Ponds Preserve and a stellar site for assemblages of these species. The trail to the pond was flanked by a dense

stand of dangleberry. A deluge of rain was a perfect deterrent for ticks and biting insects, but didn't hamper our exploration of the pond-shore and shallow water, where we encountered a blaze of colour—mostly yellow and green, but with smatterings of rust, pink, magenta, pale lilac and red. I was thrilled to make a few more new botanical friends, including late yellow-eyed

grass, horned beakrush (Figure 1), swamp azalea and fibrous bladderwort, and was excited to see some of the coastal plains species that are exceedingly rare in Canada, occurring mostly only in the province of Nova Scotia, e.g., redroot (Figure 2), threadleaf sundew, zigzag bladderwort, sweet pepperbush, and swamp clubmoss (the latter known in Canada also in Newfoundland). We undoubtedly saw slender (twisted) yellow-eyed grass and rush bladderwort there, but I can't add them to my life list since I hadn't done sufficient homework to be able to conclusively identify either species in the field, and we didn't collect any specimens. Other emergent/aquatic species already familiar to me included Virginia meadow-beauty (limited in Canada to Ontario and Nova Scotia), yellow-eyed grass, horned bladderwort, purple bladderwort (Figure 3), Canadian St. Johnswort, brown beakrush, brownish beakrush, white beakrush, spatulate-leaf sundew, roundleaf sundew, sweetgale, marsh St. Johnswort, twig rush, bayonet rush, yellow screwstem, Robbins' spikerush and pipewort. A sizeable flock of tree swallows was actively hunting low over the pond, undaunted by the heavy rain. Eager not to miss out on the chance to capture digital images of Sandy Pond's rich emergent aquatic flora, my camera made frequent, albeit furtive, forays from under my raincoat, the torrential downpour adding to the challenges of low-light photography.



Figure 3. Purple bladderwort (*Utricularia purpurea*) at Sandy Pond.



Figure 4. Virginia meadow-beauty, redroot and yellow-eyed grass, growing together to form a dense turf near an un-named pond east of Sandy Pond.

We bushwhacked through a dense stand of leatherleaf to an unnamed pond east of Sandy Pond, where we encountered more of the same rarities plus grass-leaf arrowhead, slender arrowhead (new to me), and either Engelmann's arrowhead or the narrow-leaved form of broadleaf arrowhead. The highlight of this second pond was a kaleidoscope of Virginia meadow-beauty, redroot and yellow-eyed grass, growing together to form a dense turf (Figure 4).

The morning of 21 July greeted us with sunny skies, a perfect day for exploring the South Fork. First on the agenda was the South Fork Natural History Museum at Bridgehampton, Southampton Township. The pond located east of the museum building was surrounded by a sea of yellow, thanks to a dense colony of creeping St. Johnswort, a very rare species in New York State, in peak bloom. Interspersed among these plants were many showy blooms of Virginia meadow-beauty (Figure 5) and hyssop hedgegenettle, as well as a few swamp milkweeds. As if overwhelmed by this extravaganza of floral fireworks, both of the viewfinders on my camera abruptly stopped working. My camera had temporarily protested high humidity conditions before, e.g., during a recent trip to Cancun, Mexico that had permanently taken out one of the viewfinders, but now I had none, undoubtedly due to taking too many risks at Sandy Pond and testimony to the incompatibility of electronics and water. For the rest of the trip, I continued to point and shoot blindly, yet surprisingly still came up with some decent images. Blooms of false pimpernel and slender fragrant goldenrod accented the emergent muddy shoreline around the pond. A few flowering plants of butterfly-weed in the field adjacent to the pond were attractive to ants (Figure 6) and a monarch butterfly; this milkweed species grows well in gardens in New Brunswick but there is only one historic record of it growing in the province without cultivation. Big patches of two prickly species also caught my attention, mile-a-minute vine (an introduced species that is highly invasive) and the native horserettle. The creeping St. Johnswort (Figure 7), hyssop hedgegenettle and mile-a-minute vine were all new for me. Quick scrutiny of pant legs before getting back into the car revealed that larval lone star ticks were out in full force, but Eric's scotch tape collection technique enabled us to quickly remove them from our clothing.



Figure 5. Virginia meadow-beauty (*Rhynchospora virginica*) at the South Fork Natural History.

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Figure 6. Ant on a butterfly-weed (*Asclepias tuberosa* subsp. *interior*). [E. Lamont]

with brilliant red fruits, a few southern slender ladies' tresses in good bloom and some lovely clumps of pine barrens sandwort in flower (Figure 8). This habitat (Figure 9) was reminiscent of coastal dunes in northeastern New Brunswick, but we only get the northern variety (var. *lacera*) of slender ladies' tresses that far north, and have three-toothed cinquefoil there rather than the stitchwort. Among the dunes, we came across a little oasis in the form of a small wet swale or depression surrounded by pitch pine, a species not found in New Brunswick. The little wetland was dominated by Carolina clubmoss (new to me), foxtail clubmoss, swamp clubmoss, threadleaf sundew, brownish beakrush, yellow-eyed grass, large cranberry, grass-pink in fruit, and many graminoids. We definitely don't have swales with assemblages like that in New Brunswick.

Now for the main event! Eric assured me that I would be certain to see my first fringed orchid with yellow flowers at Lazy Point (off Lazy Point Road off Cranberry Hole Road), Napeague, East Hampton Township and I was NOT disappointed. We saw dozens of plants of pale fringed orchid in peak bloom growing in sand and needle litter in partial to full shade within small groves of pitch pine. Dozens more were still in bud, and in some areas the inflorescences of many plants had been browsed off by some orchid-loving herbivore, likely a white-tailed deer. Patches of salt marsh bordering rolling dunes provided habitat for twig rush, a few blooms of sea pink, sundrops and bitter panicgrass, the latter three new to me. Many beach plum shrubs bearing green fruit grew on the open sand.



Figure 7. Creeping St. Johnswort (*Hypericum adpressum*) at South Fork Natural History Museum.

Undulating dunes on the south side of Cranberry Hole Road, at Napeague, East Hampton Township were vegetated with a dense cover of beach heather and bearberry, the latter

der and dozens of blooms of sea pink (Figure 11), including a few white ones. Wild indigo (new for me) and bear oak grew in the drier stands of oak at the edges of the marsh.



Figure 8. Pine barrens sandwort (*Minuartia caroliniana*) at Napeague.

Although I know curly-grass fern well from Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, I very much wanted to see it on Long Island to get a better understanding of its ecological latitude and because of the historical

significance of its discovery there. On the north side of Hwy 27 at Napeague, East Hampton Township, across the road from a state park, we conceretedly searched a narrow linear wet open swale for it without success, but did see one more species that was new to me, slender blue flag (in fruit), and a few flowering plants of swamp azalea and cross-leaf milkwort (Figure 12).

Off Barnes Hole Road at Amagansett, East Hampton Township, the population of yellow fringed orchid had dwindled to a single leaf, so I was able to add this species to my lifelist without the satisfaction of seeing it in bloom. A nice consolation prize was a spicebush swallowtail butterfly that landed to sample some mud.

Crested yellow orchid could no longer be found at two sites where this species formerly grew, but we did find a few plants of screwstem and some spotted wintergreen (endangered in Canada) off Red Creek Road.

Eric was keen to show me the lovely hard-won protected area at Dwarf Pine Plains, Westhampton, Southampton Township, a fascinating habitat dominated by stunted pitch pine and with an abundance of goldenheather, the latter past bloom. Gold-



Figure 9. The landscape approaching the population of pale crested orchid in Napeague, on the South Fork. The dunes are sparsely vegetated by beach heather (*Hudsonia tomentosa*) and bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*); pitch pine occurs in the background and becomes dominant in a nearby, large blow-out/depression. [E. Lamont]



Figure 10. Marsh fimbry (*Fimbristylis castanea*) at Hubbard Marsh.

enheather has not yet been found in New Brunswick, but does occur in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. We were unable to find any little ladies' tresses at that site or a nearby area that has grown up and been converted to a residential area. The term "pine barrens" seems most inappropriate for such a unique and fascinating habitat.

Eric kindly stopped along a roadside while en route back to Riverhead, to afford me the opportunity to see and photograph weeping lovegrass and the beautiful little sheep's-bit (Figure 13), the latter in peak bloom. Both of these species were also new to me.



Figure 11. Sea pink (*Sabatia stellaris*).

After dinner, Eric and Mary Laura and I walked down to the beach at Riverhead, and enjoyed a spectacular sunset on Long Island Sound, as hundreds of barn swallows flew eastward along the coast. Another glorious sunny summer day hosted our explorations of the North Fork on 22 July, the last day of my visit. Eric intrigued me with his report of American featherfoil from some wooded ponds behind his home, so we started our day by exploring the floodplains and forests at Riverhead. The abundant foreign-looking raspberry there turned out to be wineberry, a new species for me and a tasty one at that. I was surprised to see Venus' looking-glass growing in Eric's driveway, and jumpseed in bloom in the nearby hedgerow. The former species is very rare and likely adventive in New Brunswick, and I had only seen the latter species in rich clay swamp forests in the Niagara region of southern Ontario. It was disappointing not to see any conclusive trace of the featherfoil, but it is a very



Figure 12. Cross-leaf milkwort (*Polygala cruciata*) at an abandoned cranberry marsh along River Road.

early flowering species and I was happy to get a better idea about its preferred habitat. We did find one species that was new to me, Japanese honeysuckle, and it was exciting to see black gum, mock-

ernut hickory and three giant swamp white oak, none of which make it northward to my part of the world.

Next on the agenda was a foray along Hubbard Creek, east of Red Creek Road at Flanders, Southampton Township. Species new to me at this site were saltmarsh fleabane (in bud), mock bishop's weed (in bloom), yellow thistle (leaves), scarlet oak, sweet woodreed, possumhaw (var. *nudum*; in green fruit; S1 in New York and at the northern limit of its range), and a dragonfly, eastern pondhawk (a female). Possumhaw-like shrubs are very common in New Brunswick, but they are all wild raisin (var. *cassinoides*). I was happy to get better acquainted with a few more species that I don't see very often, e.g., Atlantic white cedar (not occurring in eastern North America north of Maine), Canadian burnet (in New Brunswick limited to the northern part of the province and a few sites along the Bay of Fundy), germander (in bloom), water pimpernel (in bloom; known from one estuarine river in New Brunswick), sundrops (in peak bloom) and maleberry (only recently discovered in Canada in Nova Scotia).



Figure 13. Sheep's-bit (*Jasione montana*).

At Hubbard Marsh, west of Red Creek Point Road at Flanders, Southampton Township, post oak (new for me) and hackberry grew in a narrow fringe between the road and the salt marsh. As we skirted the edge of the salt marsh, we came across three species of plants that were new to me — saltmarsh loosestrife (endangered in New York state), perennial saltmarsh aster and seaside goldenrod — the first two in bloom. There were large numbers of both the annual and perennial glasswort species, and it was great to get reacquainted with marsh fimbry and saltmarsh gerrardia, the latter species still extant in Nova Scotia, but likely extirpated from New Brunswick. The salt marsh was teeming with dozens of small dragonflies, new to me and later identi-

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(*Botanist Unleashed cont. from page 19*)

fied as seaside dragonlet, flitting amidst the salt marsh vegetation. This species is so highly variable in colour, with abdomens ranging from pure gold to almost a slate-gray colour, that we erroneously assumed that more than one species was present. A white-tailed deer doe and her fawn checked us out from the far side of the marsh.

At Mattituck, Southold Township, we explored a dry hardwood forest located between a cemetery and a railroad track, and found four species that were new for me, including bluecurls (in leaf) with a minty fragrance to its leaves, fernleaf yellow false foxglove (not yet in bloom), goat's rue (in fruit), and yellow hairgrass, and we also found Asiatic dayflower in bloom and the shell of a box tortoise. The bluecurls are extremely rare in Canada, known only from a few sites in Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia.

Eric had saved one of the most promising stops for near the end of my stay on Long Island, a visit to Moore's Woods at Greenport, Southold Township (Figure 14), legendary home to the cranefly orchid. I had seen the distinctive leaves of this species in Tennessee, but was hoping to see it in bloom so I could witness firsthand how it got its common name. Unfortunately, this orchid has been declining from its only extant location in New York State and we could not find any blooms in the vicinity of Eric's natural landmarks. The stop was still worthwhile though, since it enabled me to become reacquainted with Carolinian forest, an ecosystem that extends northward into Canada only in southern Ontario. It was thrilling to see tall robust examples of tuliptree, sweet birch, shagbark hickory and northern red oak, and surprising to see that sweet cherry can attain a comparable size. None of these first three species occurs naturally anywhere close to New Brunswick, although a few small specimens of tuliptree seem to be flourishing in a yard on Grand Manan Island in the Bay of Fundy. Many of the vines that wrapped themselves around the trees in this forest were eastern poison ivy, an uncommon species in New Brunswick (as opposed to the widespread western poison ivy which is shrubby and doesn't climb), where it only seems to have the potential to climb a

few meters. It was an unexpected surprise to see a belted kingfisher in the heart of the woods, perched along the edge of a small stream, and several nice clumps of chicken of the woods fungus. We searched the floodplain forest diligently for cattail sedge without success. The mats of green that bordered many of the trails were mainly composed of the highly invasive grass, Japanese stilt grass, another species that was new for me.

A foray to the nearby swamp cottonwood forest, west of Chapel Lane at Greenport, Southold Township introduced me to swamp cottonwood, in many diverse stages of development, and pin oak, and enabled me to get some close-up looks at swamp white oak. I photographed a red admiral butterfly, perhaps a progeny stemming from the huge unprecedented wave of butterflies that migrated northward in the spring, basking on some swamp cottonwood seedlings.

The final stop was at a cobble beach located west of Orient and south of Dam Pond in Southold Township, where many blue-gray rosettes of horned poppy were seen, along with a few plants in fruit. It was fun to also see a plant or two of eastern prickly pear growing among shells, flotsam and gravel on the beach.

While aboard the ferry, I carefully scrutinized a huge flock of common terns engaged in a feeding frenzy along the shore of Plum Island, but try as I may, I was unable to discern any roseate terns among them. Being a veterinary pathologist by profession, Plum Island was of special interest to me, since it has a global reputation as one of the most important facilities for research and surveillance for foreign animal diseases.

My final tally for my Long Island adventure was at least 55 plant species that I had never before seen, plus three new varieties of plant species that were otherwise familiar to me, and two new species of dragonflies. I had made a fleeting trip to Long Island in July 2010 to see a Cyndi Lauper concert with a friend, but we didn't have much opportunity to botanize on that trip, and I certainly didn't have the benefit of a knowledgeable, enthusiastic and generous guide like Eric. Thanks to Eric and Mary Laura for their wonderful hospitality and for whetting my appetite for the flora of Long Island.



Figure 14. The author in Moores Woods, Greenport, searching for the crane-fly orchid. Note the old, uprooted American beech tree with fallen branches now growing into vertical "trunks;" note also the numerous carvings into the smooth, elephant-skin-like bark. Around 1990, many flowering orchids grew around the base of this fallen tree; now the colony is restricted to a very small area in Moores Woods. [E. Lamont]

## Species seen

- Asiatic dayflower (*Commelina communis*)  
 Atlantic white cedar (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*)  
 bayonet rush (*Juncus militaris*)  
 beach heather (*Hudsonia tomentosa*)  
 beach plum (*Prunus maritima*)  
 bear oak (*Quercus ilicifolia*)  
 bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)  
 bitter panicgrass (*Panicum amarum*)  
 black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*)  
 black oak (*Quercus velutina*)  
 bluecurls (*Trichostema dichotomum*)  
 brown beakrush (*Rhynchospora fusca*)  
 brownish beakrush (*Rhynchospora capitellata*)  
 bugleweed (*Lycopus virginicus*)  
 bunch broomsedge (*Andropogon glomeratus*)  
 butterfly-weed (*Asclepias tuberosa* subsp. *interior*)  
 buttonweed (*Diodia teres*)  
 Canadian burnet (*Sanguisorba canadensis*)  
 Canadian St. Johnswort (*Hypericum canadense*)  
 Carolina clubmoss (*Lycopodiella caroliniana*)  
 catbrier (*Smilax glauca*)  
 chicken of the woods fungus (*Laetiporus sulphureus*)  
 cottonweed (*Froelichia gracilis*)  
 creeping St. Johnswort (*Hypericum adpressum*)  
 cross-leaf milkwort (*Polygala cruciata*)  
 cutleaf evening primrose (*Oenothera laciniata*)  
 dangleberry (*Gaylussacia frondosa*)  
 dodder (*Cuscuta* species)  
 eastern poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*)  
 eastern prickly pear (*Opuntia humifusa*)  
 Engelmann's arrowhead (*Sagittaria engelmanniana*) or the narrow-leaved form of broadleaf arrowhead (*Sagittaria latifolia*)  
 false pimpernel (*Lindernia dubia*)  
 fernleaf yellow false foxglove (*Aureolaria pedicularia*)  
 fibrous bladderwort (*Utricularia striata*)  
 flaxleaf whitetop aster (*Ionactis linariifolius*)  
 foxtail clubmoss (*Lycopodiella alopecuroides*)  
 frostweed (*Helianthemum* species)  
 germander (*Teucrium canadense*)  
 glasswort (*Salicornia* species)  
 goat's-rue (*Tephrosia virginiana*)  
 goldenheather (*Hudsonia ericoides*)  
 grass-leaf arrowhead (*Sagittaria graminea*)  
 grass-pink (*Calopogon tuberosus*)  
 greenbrier (*Smilax rotundifolia*)  
 groundsel-bush (*Baccharis halimifolia*)  
 hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)  
 horned beakrush (*Rhynchospora inundata*)  
 horned bladderwort (*Utricularia cornuta*)  
 horned poppy (*Glaucium flavum*)  
 horse nettle (*Solanum carolinense*)  
 hyssop hedge nettle (*Stachys hyssopifolia*)  
 hyssopleaf thoroughwort (*Eupatorium hyssopifolium*)  
 inkberry (*Ilex glabra*)  
 ipecac spurge (*Euphorbia ipecacuanhae*)  
 Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)  
 Japanese stilt grass (*Microstegium vimineum*)  
 jointweed (*Polygonella articulata*)  
 jumpseed (*Tovara virginiana*)  
 large cranberry (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*)  
 largebracted plantain (*Plantago aristata*)  
 late yellow-eyed grass (*Xyris smalliana*)  
 leatherleaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*)  
 maleberry (*Lyonia ligustrina*)  
 marsh elder (*Iva frutescens*)  
 marsh fimbry (*Fimbristylis castanea*)  
 marsh St. Johnswort (*Triadenum virginicum*)  
 mile-a-minute vine (*Polygonum perfoliatum*)  
 mock bishop's weed (*Ptilimnium capillaceum*)  
 mockernut hickory (*Carya tomentosa*, *C. alba*)  
 northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*)  
 orangegrass (*Hypericum gentianoides*)  
 pale fringed orchid (*Platanthera pallida*, *P. × canbyi*)  
 perennial saltmarsh aster (*Symphyotrichum tenuifolium*)  
 pin oak (*Quercus palustris*)  
 pine barrens sandwort (*Minuartia caroliniana*)  
 pipewort (*Eriocaulon aquaticum*)  
 pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*)  
 possumhaw (*Viburnum nudum* var. *nudum*)  
 post oak (*Quercus stellata*)  
 purple bladderwort (*Utricularia purpurea*)  
 purple lovegrass (*Eragrostis spectabilis*)  
 purple sandgrass (*Triplasis purpurea*)  
 redroot (*Lachnanthes caroliana*)  
 Robbins' spikerush (*Eleocharis robbinsii*)  
 roundleaf sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*)  
 rush bladderwort (*Utricularia juncea*)  
 saltmarsh fleabane (*Pluchea odorata* var. *succulenta*)  
 saltmarsh gerardia (*Agalinis maritima*)  
 saltmarsh loosestrife (*Lythrum lineare*)  
 sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*)  
 scarlet oak (*Quercus coccinea*)  
 screwstem (*Bartonia paniculata*)  
 sea pink (*Sabatia stellaris*)  
 seaside goldenrod (*Solidago sempervirens* var. *mexicana*)  
 seaside threeawn (*Aristida tuberculosa*)  
 shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*)  
 sheep's-bit (*Jasione montana*)

(Botanist Unleashed plant list cont. from page 21)

shrubby lespedeza (*Lespedeza frutescens*)  
 sickle-leaved golden-aster (*Pityopsis falcata*)  
 slender arrowhead (*Sagittaria teres*)  
 slender blue flag (*Iris prismatica*)  
 slender fragrant goldenrod (*Euthamia caroliniana*)  
 slender ladies' tresses (*Spiranthes lacera* var. *gracilis*)  
 slender yellow-eyed grass (*Xyris torta*)  
 spatulateleaf sundew (*Drosera intermedia*)  
 spotted wintergreen (*Chimaphila maculata*)  
 staggerbush (*Lyonia mariana*)  
 steeplebush (*Spiraea tomentosa*)  
 sundrops (*Oenothera fruticosa*)  
 swamp azalea (*Rhododendron viscosum*)  
 swamp clubmoss (*Lycopodiella appressa*)  
 swamp cottonwood (*Populus heterophylla*)  
 swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)  
 swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*)  
 sweet birch (*Betula lenta*)  
 sweet cherry (*Prunus avium*)  
 sweet goldenrod (*Solidago odora*)  
 sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*)  
 sweet woodreed (*Cinna arundinacea*)  
 sweetgale (*Myrica gale*)  
 threadleaf sundew (*Drosera filiformis*)  
 tuliptree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)  
 twig rush (*Cladium mariscoides*)  
 Venus' looking-glass (*Triodanis perfoliata*)  
 Virginia meadow-beauty (*Rhexia virginica*)  
 Walter's sedge (*Carex striata* var. *brevis*)  
 water pimpernel (*Samolus valerandi*)  
 weeping lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*)  
 white beakrush (*Rhychospora alba*)  
 wild indigo (*Baptisia tinctoria*)  
 wineberry (*Rubus phoenicolasius*)  
 yellow fringed orchid (*Platanthera ciliaris*)  
 yellow hairgrass (*Aira praecox*)  
 yellow screwstem (*Bartonia virginica*)  
 yellow thistle (*Cirsium horridulum*)  
 yellow-eyed grass (*Xyris difformis*)  
 zigzag bladderwort (*Utricularia subulata*)

### **Species looked for but not seen**

American featherfoil (*Hottonia inflata*)  
 cattail sedge (*Carex typhina*)  
 crested yellow orchid (*Platanthera cristata*)  
 cranefly orchid (*Tipularia discolor*)  
 curly-grass fern (*Schizaea pusilla*)  
 little ladies' tresses (*Spiranthes tuberosa*)

## **2013 FIELD TRIPS**

### **APRIL 6, 2013 (SATURDAY) 9:30 AM**

*William Cullen Bryant Preserve (home of Nassau County Museum of Art), Roslyn Harbor, Nassau County, NY*  
 Trip leaders: Rich Kelly Cell: (516) 509-1094, and Nassau County Museum of Art Senior Educator Jean Henning

This is the time to be on the lookout for early flowering spring wildflowers. We will explore the Ravine Trail and the Pinetum. Bring water, snacks and sturdy boots. The terrain is locally steep and slippery so a walking stick/hiking pole may be a good thing to bring.

**Directions:** The entrance to the Museum is on Northern Boulevard less than half a mile west of Glen Cove Road. Meet at the mansion parking lot, near the sunken garden.

### **APRIL 27, 2013 (SATURDAY) 10 AM**

*Suffolk County Environmental Center, Islip, Suffolk County, NY*  
 Trip leader: Rich Kelly Cell: (516) 509-1094

We will be surveying the 70-acre Seatuck Environmental Association property. There are oak woods, a transitional woodland with Tupelo and Red Maple, and a disturbed tidal estuary with a pond and salt marsh. A LIBS trip here approximately 6 years ago revealed a predominance of native species compared to invasives.

**Directions:** From Montauk Highway (Rte. 27A) in Islip, take South Bay Avenue south. After a blinking light, you will enter a wooded area, then watch for the entrance driveway on the right. There will be a sign for the Suffolk County Environmental Center, and the street address is 550 South Bay Avenue. This is the former Scully Estate.

### **MAY 13, 2013 (MONDAY) 10 AM**

**Please note that this trip is on a weekday**

*Forest Park, Queens County, NY*

Trip leader: Michael Feder Email: mdfeder2001@yahoo.com

(In conjunction with New York Wildflower Week) Botany for beginners - Participants will be shown how to use field guides to identify wildflowers. We will also talk about some of the commonly encountered plants whether in bloom or not. If you own a copy, please bring your Newcomb's Wildflower Guide.

**Directions:** We will meet at Wallenberg Square, located at the southwest corner of Park Lane South and Metropolitan Avenue in Kew Gardens. Take the Grand Central Parkway or Van Wyck Expressway to the Jackie Robinson Parkway. Get off at exit 6, Metropolitan Avenue. Make a left onto Metropolitan Avenue. Wallenberg Square will be about 1/4 mile down the road on your right at the intersection with Park Lane South. The walk will last approximately two hours.

**JUNE 1, 2013 (SATURDAY) 10 AM***Oyster Pond, Montauk, Suffolk County, NY*

Trip leader: Victoria Bustamante

Email: vbustamante1@optonline.net and Larry Penny

"Oyster Pond is probably the best example of a brackish and coastal salt pond with an undeveloped watershed in New York. The wetlands around the pond support blue-spotted salamander and southern leopard frog, as well as nesting and feeding by a variety of waterfowl and waterbirds. Rare plants along the shoreline include Mitchell's sedge and the only known population of seabeach purslane in New York." The walk will be approximately 2 miles total but will be leisurely. Bring water, snacks and bug repellent. Be prepared for possible wet walking.

**Directions:** Take 27 east through Montauk village east towards the lighthouse. Turn right onto Camp Hero Road, follow straight ahead about 300 yards and park on the right shoulder of the road.

**AUGUST 17, 2013 (SATURDAY) 10 AM***Calverton Ponds Preserve, Calverton, Suffolk County, NY*

Trip leader: Diana Van Buren

Email: northforkaudubon@mac.com

This 350-acre oak-pine forest contains coastal plain ponds, which represent one of the rarest wetland types in North America. Calverton Ponds hosts more than 30 rare plants, several rare amphibians and fish and a number of rare dragonflies, butterflies and moths. Bring water, snacks and bug repellent (be prepared for ticks).

**Directions:** Please e-mail mdfeder2001@yahoo.com to register for this trip and for directions to our meeting location.

**AUGUST 25, 2013 (SUNDAY) 10 AM***Edgewood Preserve, Deer Park, Suffolk County, NY*

Trip leader: Michael Feder Cell: (917) 714-4461 (day of trip only) E-mail: mdfeder2001@yahoo.com

The Edgewood Preserve is one of the largest remnant pitch-pine scrub oak habitats in New York and is the largest natural wildlife corridor in Western Suffolk County. We will be exploring a power-line cut that runs through the preserve. Be prepared for possible wet walking. We can expect to see some uncommon plants and a wide variety of *Cyperus* species growing syntopically. Bring plenty of water, bug repellent and snacks.

**Directions:** Please contact trip leader by e-mail for meeting location and directions. Note that a permit is required from the DEC in order to access the preserve and rangers are sometimes present to check for them. The permit is free and easy to obtain through e-mail by visiting <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7815.html> and clicking on the Region 1 State Land Access Permit link in the upper right hand corner.

**AUGUST 31, 2013 (SATURDAY) 10 AM***South Fork Natural History Museum (SOFO),**Bridgehampton, Suffolk County, NY*

Trip Leader: Eric Lamont (Co-listed with SOFO)

We will explore a pond that supports *Hypericum adpressum*, *Stachys hyssopifolia*, *Rhexia virginica*, et al.; fields covered with goldenrods, asters, and other herbs; and other plant communities. If the water table is low and it's a "drawdown year" and if there's interest, we can also visit nearby coastal plain ponds (eg. Long Pond, Crooked Pond, Round Pond) in the afternoon. The am walk will last about 2 hrs. Bring water, lunch, and insect/tick repellent.

**Directions:** Meet at SOFO, Bridgehampton, on the South Fork of Long Island. Take Sunrise Hwy. (Rte. 27) east across Shinnecock Canal. The 4-lane highway narrows to 2 lanes; continue east past Southampton and turn east onto Montauk Hwy and continue to the town of Bridgehampton. At the east end of town, turn north onto the Bridgehampton/Sag Harbor Turnpike (County Road 79). Cross the railroad tracks and SOFO will be just ahead on the right (east). Allow for Labor Day weekend traffic delays.

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2013 (SATURDAY) 10 AM***Hempstead Plains, Nassau County, NY*

Trip leaders: Betsy Gulotta, Conservation Project Manager, and Scott Emmons, Friends of Hempstead Plains. Call 516-572-7575-x26531 or Email info@friendsofhp.org. (Co-listed with the Torrey Botanical Society)

Over 200 species of native and non-native flowering plants have been identified at the 19-acre Hempstead Plains at Nassau Community College. The native grasses characterizing the tall grass prairie are particularly beautiful this time of year. The walk takes about an hour. Bring water and sturdy shoes.

**Directions:** From either Meadowbrook Parkway Exit M4 or Merrick Ave. north of Rt. 24 Hempstead Turnpike, take Charles Lindbergh Blvd. west. Turn at first right into East Parking of NCC. Go to first intersection. See parking along fence and sign for Hempstead Plains.

**OCTOBER 5, 2013 (SATURDAY) 9:30 AM***Brentwood to Southampton, Suffolk County, NY*

Trip leader: John Turner, Email: redknot@optonline.net

Atlantic white cedar trees grow slowly and may live for more than 1000 years. In New York they are a threatened species with approximately two dozen populations. We'll make four to five stops to look at representative cedar groves, heading as far east as Southampton. The trip will run until approximately 4-4:30. Bring water, lunch, and insect repellent.

**Directions:** We will meet at the northeast corner of the Wicks Road Park and Ride of the LI Expressway at 9:30 a.m. The address of the Park and Ride is 500 Wicks Rd. Brentwood, NY 11717-1132.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Location: Earth and Space Science Building,  
Gil Hanson Room (Room 123),  
Stony Brook University, Stony Brook

and cultivars, including a cultivar newly named by the presenter. Matt is a renowned cultivator and photographer of carnivorous plants. He has won many horticultural awards at New England Carnivorous Plant Society exhibitions, was a lead organizer for the International Carnivorous Plant Society's conference in 2012, and is a consultant for the North American Sarracenia Conservancy.

Location: Bill Paterson Nature Center,  
Muttontown Preserve, East Norwich

**Annual Barbecue:** The annual barbecue, featuring Chef Eric's made-to-order hot dogs and hamburgers. Salads, deviled eggs, desserts, etc. gladly accepted. The traditional location - on the green behind the Muttontown Preserve meeting house.

Location: Bill Paterson Nature Center,  
Muttontown Preserve, East Norwich

\* Refreshments and informal talk begin at 7:30 p.m.

Formal meeting starts at 8:00 p.m.

Directions to Muttontown or Stony Brook: 516-354-6506